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Stinging Thistle

The stinging thistle, often intertwined with folklore and myth, carries a wealth of symbolism and history. In Norse mythology, the stinging nettle was said to be used by the god Loki to craft his fishing net. This association with the nettle, a close relative of the thistle, highlights the plant's historical use in textile production, akin to hemp. The Scottish thistle, with its spiny branches and purple florets, stands as a national emblem, symbolizing resilience and protection. According to legend, an invading Norse army was thwarted when one of their barefoot soldiers stepped on a thistle, causing him to cry out and alert the Scots.

This tale captures the essence of the thistle's protective nature, which has been revered through the ages.